

Dear Friend:

Cancer kills half a million Americans each year. The disease costs our society more than \$104 billion annually. Over the next 30 years, cancer will surpass heart disease and become the leading cause of death as the baby boomers age. These statistics are indeed dramatic since this is a disease that effects every American family.

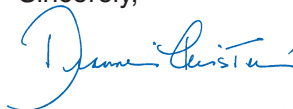
Having lost many loved ones and friends to painful cancer deaths, I have a deep understanding of what this disease can do to people, both physically and psychologically. Although the effect of cancer can be devastating, as a nation we must strengthen our resolve to find a cure for this dreaded disease.

Since coming to the Senate in 1992, the eradication of cancer has always been at the top of my agenda. I will not rest until we have found a cure. As co-chair of the Senate Cancer Coalition and vice-chair of the National Dialogue on Cancer, it became clear to me that we needed to update the 1971 initiative of former President Richard Nixon to win the "war on cancer." The battle plan that has been used for over 30 years is out of date because the way we treat, prevent, diagnose, conduct research and understand cancer has changed dramatically.

To that end, I have introduced the National Cancer Act, legislation that creates a new comprehensive national battle plan to modernize and re-energize the nation's fight against the disease. The bill will improve basic cancer research, create incentives for the transformation of that research into new, effective treatments, prevent cancer when possible and improve the quality of care to patients.

I am thoroughly convinced that if we marshal the nation's resources, we can conquer cancer in the 21st century. With your help, I know we can do it. Please contact your Congressional representative to urge them to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,



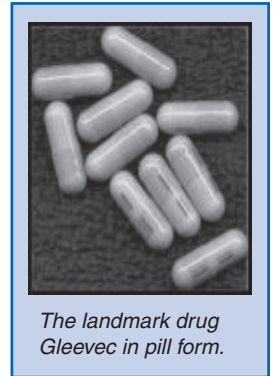
Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator, California

Updating America's War on Cancer

Cancer is a disease of aging. By 2010, cancer incidence will grow by 29% and cancer deaths will increase by 25%. The number of Americans over age 65 will double in the next 30 years.

When Congress passed the first National Cancer Act in 1971, cancer was a death sentence, and doctors mainly sought ways to ease their patients' pain. Since then, however, the way we treat, research, and understand cancer has changed dramatically:

- The science of cancer has advanced greatly with the revolution in molecular and cellular biology creating unprecedented opportunities for understanding how genetics, environmental risk factors, and lifestyle factors relate to cancer.
- The explosion in knowledge about the human genome and molecular biology will enable scientists to better target cancer drugs. This has led to the creation of drugs like Gleevec which combats Chronic Myeloid Leukemia, and Herceptin, which fights breast cancer.
- Advances in nuclear imaging and clinical lab testing are enabling physicians to detect cancers earlier, when they are less complicated and less costly to treat.
- New techniques in surgery and radiation therapy are giving cancer patients new hope in conquering the disease and returning to normal, productive lives.



*The landmark drug
Gleevec in pill form.*

The Need for a New Battle Plan to Fight Cancer

The National Cancer Act grew out of Senator Feinstein's work as the chair of the Senate Cancer Coalition and vice-chair of the National Dialogue on Cancer, an organization of over 120 cancer groups who have joined forces with the mission of eradicating cancer as a major public health problem at the earliest possible time. The Dialogue is chaired by former President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush.

On the Dialogue, Senator Feinstein asked Dr. John Seffrin, CEO of the American Cancer Society, and Dr. Vincent DeVita, Director of the Yale Cancer Center and former head of the National Cancer Institute, to form a special committee to provide recommendations on a new legislation. They brought 21 of the foremost experts on cancer together to form the National Cancer Legislation Advisory Committee.

The advisory committee produced a very ambitious plan, and Senator Feinstein and her colleagues have tried to take the most important components of the plan, within present budget constraints, to create a workable piece of legislation.

The National Cancer Act of 2002

The legislation would:

Increase the percentage of National Cancer Institute research grants approved from 28% to up to 40% over 5 years. Includes a 15% increase over the FY 2002 for the budget of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in FY 2003. NCI scientists believe this level is optimal for achieving a balanced research portfolio, which will lead to more breakthroughs, treatments, and, ultimately, to a cure. Based on the successes of Gleevec, Herceptin, and similar drugs, the legislation funds the basic scientific research needed to find cures, to develop new treatments, and to improve the treatments now available.



Senators Feinstein, Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, Gordon Smith of Oregon, Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, and former Senator Robert Dole with 9-year old cancer survivor Ian McGowan and his family.

Provide \$100 million a year for 5 years in grants and other incentives to take that basic research from the laboratory and bring it into hospital rooms and clinics. There are approximately 400 new drugs that are held up in the development process because the resources are not available to fund clinical research to test those drugs. In fact, only 5% of adult cancer patients (versus 60% of children) are currently enrolled in clinical trials. It also requires that private and public insurance programs cover the routine costs of clinical trials.

Increase the number of cancer researchers. Every year, young physicians and researchers avoid the field of cancer research because they can make more money in other fields of medicine. This provision seeks to stem that trend by:

- Including a grant program of \$190.5 million to alleviate the medical school debts of 100 physicians who commit at least 3 years to cancer research; and
- Boosting the salaries of 1,000 postdoctoral fellows over 5 years beyond the current salary level of \$28,000.

Encourages Production of “Orphan Drugs.” Expands the current definition of “orphan drugs” from disease and condition to include disease or condition or targets and mechanisms of pathogenesis of disease. Tax and marketing incentives to encourage pharmaceutical companies to produce “orphan drugs”. Expands the availability of drug companies that make drugs targeted to patient populations of less than 200,000 to participate. Gleevac, for instance is targeted to a specific form of cancer—Chronic Myeloid Leukemia—which affects 4,500 people a year.

Provide patients with a “Cancer Quarterback.” Requires public and private health insurance plans to pay doctors, preferably oncologists, to become the overall managers of patients’ care, in effect to become a “cancer quarterback.” Senator Feinstein developed this concept after meeting Dr. Judy Schmidt, an oncologist from Montana. Dr. Schmidt cares for her patients from diagnosis to treatment. Cancer patients need one doctor to be in charge, to coordinate care, and to guide them in making the difficult decisions.

Require Food and Drug Administration Regulation of Tobacco. Provides meaningful regulation of the content of tobacco products by the FDA and their marketing to children. It is estimated that 30% of cancer deaths are related to the use of tobacco products.

Create New Preventative Measures. Prevention and early detection can save lives and money. The bill will accomplish this by:

- Requiring all insurers to pay for cancer screenings, smoking cessation, nutritional counseling, and genetic testing (among people with demonstrated risk).
- Providing \$250 million for the Center of Disease Control’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program for low-income women.
- Providing \$50 million to create a demonstration program to expand the CDS’s program to include screening for colo-rectal cancer.



Other Feinstein Efforts to Fight Cancer

Senator Feinstein has made funding cancer research a top legislative priority since coming to the Senate. Several measures have been approved or are currently being considered in Congress:

- **Breast Cancer Research Stamp:**

On August 13, 1997, President Clinton signed legislation sponsored by Senator Feinstein to create a Breast Cancer Research Stamp. It directed to U.S. Postal Service to create a special first class stamp priced at up to 25% above the cost of a regular first class stamp. The stamp has raised roughly \$30 million for breast cancer research.



- **Coverage of Mammograms/Cancer Screening:** Senator Feinstein sponsored and won approval for legislation to require that Medicare cover mammograms for Medicare recipients 40 year old or older. Recognizing that one of the best ways to reduce cancer death rates is through increased screening, she is also the sponsor of legislation to require health plans to cover screening for breast, cervical, prostate, and colorectal cancer.
- **Coverage for Breasts Reconstruction Surgery:** Senator Feinstein co-sponsored a 1998 law to require health plans to pay for breast reconstruction surgery. Senator Feinstein is also the co-sponsor of legislation to eliminate “drive through mastectomies” and require health plans to cover second opinions by specialists to confirm or refute cancer diagnosis.
- **Increased Research Funding:** Since Senator Feinstein took office, federal funding for cancer increased from \$1.99 billion to over \$4.2 billion, nearly a 47% hike. Senator Feinstein has also pushed successfully to double funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) over five years, now in its fifth and final year, and has urged the President to submit a budget that reflects this increase.

- **Clinical Trials Database:** On January 21, 1997, Senators Feinstein and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) introduced S. 87, legislation to establish a toll-free service so that people with life-threatening diseases and the medical community can more easily find out what research projects are underway. This database is needed so that people—often people in desperate, life-threatening situations, people who have tried everything—can easily find possible new treatments. You can access the web-sight at www.clinicaltrials.gov. This measure is included in S.830, the Senate Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Reform bill.
- **Calling for and Voting for Increase in NIH Funding:** Senator Feinstein helped lead the way on Senate resolution calling for the National Institutes of Health to be doubled over 5 years. That effort is not in its fifth and final year.
- **High Breast Cancer Incidence Rates:** Senator Feinstein has asked the Director of the National Cancer Institute to investigate the high rates of breast cancer in California, particularly in San Francisco, an area that has one of the highest incidence rates in the country.

Other Initiatives:

- Senator Feinstein has also worked to ban discrimination by insurance companies based on genetic information.
- Senator Feinstein has worked to provide consistency in insurance coverage of mammography screening for women over age 40.

The Senate Cancer Coalition

In 1994, Senators Feinstein and Connie Mack founded the Senate Cancer Coalition. The Coalition's mission is to bring special focus to the problem of cancer in the United States, to highlight funding needs, to identify research gaps, and to develop strategies in the search to find a cure for this dreaded disease.

Upon the retirement of Senator Mack in January in January 2001, Senator Sam Brownback has joined Senator Feinstein as co-chair of the Coalition.

The Senate Cancer Coalition has held numerous hearings to explore a range of issues such as the potential benefits and abuses of genetic testing for cancer, the status of breast cancer research, the controversial drug Tamoxifen, and environmental risk factors for cancer. Witnesses at these hearings identified startling geographic and ethnic disparities in cancer research, and highlighted the critical need for more research funding.



How You Can Help

- Please call or write members of the Senate Health Committee and urge them to include parts of our bill the cancer legislation they are considering. With your help, we will find a way to beat this disease once and for all.

Senate Health Committee

Edward M. Kennedy	Bill Frist
Christopher Dodd	Mike Enzi
Tom Harkin	Lamar Alexander
Barbara Mikulski	John Ensign
James Jeffords	Lindsey Graham
Jeff Bingaman	John Warner
Patty Murray	Christopher Bond
Jack Reed	Pat Roberts
John Edwards	Susan Collins
Hillary Clinton	Jeff Sessions
Judd Gregg	Mike DeWine

- Call your Representative in Congress and your U.S. Senator at (202) 224-3121
- Send letters to your Member of Congress:

House of Representatives/US Senate
Washington, D.C.
20515 (House) or 20510 (Senate)
- Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper to make others aware of the need for a new battle plan in the fight against cancer.

For More Information

- Contact the American Cancer Society at (800) ACS-2345 or www.cancer.org
- Contact the National Cancer Institute at (800) 4-CANCER or www.cancer.gov
- Contact Win Against Breast Cancer at 866-2WINABC or www.winabc.org
- Contact the National Prostate Cancer Coalition at 888-245-9455 or www.4npcc.org
- Contact the Breast Cancer Fund at 866-760-8223 or www.breastcancerfund.org
- Contact the Colon Cancer Alliance at 212-627-7451 or the toll free helpline: 877-422-2030 or www.ccalliance.org
- Contact the Alliance for Lung Cancer at 800-298-2436 or 360-696-2436 or www.alcase.org



"I am convinced that if we just marshal the resources, we can conquer cancer in the 21st Century. Let's begin. The road ahead is long and treacherous. But if we all work together, I honestly believe we can do it."

– Senator Dianne Feinstein